



FORT CALHOUN HIGH SCHOOL COMMONS
FRIDAY OCTOBER 6, 2023
4:30 TO 7:00 PM
\$12.00 ADULTS, \$10.00 10-17, UNDER 10 FREE



Fort Calhoun Community Schools use an automated system to notify families of emergencies or weather-related closings by call, text or e-mail. Make sure all your contact numbers are up-to-date and let us know your preferred way of notification by returning your Student Profiles.

Jr-Sr High School Pick Up/Drop Off

All students should be dropped off in the west parking lot and enter through the front doors. Be considerate of our buses as this is also the bus drop-off area.

Picking up students during the school day should always be done in the west parking lot as they exit from the office. Students may meet you in the parking lot.

During construction, the south parking lot will not be available for student pickup. Parents should come to the west lot, **find a spot and PARK to wait for your student(s)**. This lot has traffic and the front drive is a bus lane and an emergency area which should not be used. Please be mindful of the buses exiting the lot on your departure. After practices parents should **PARK** in the west lot not on the drive. Thank you for your help with this.

POLICY 3053-NONDISCRIMINATION

The School District does not discriminate on the basis of prohibited factors in employment and educational programs/activities. The School District affirmatively strives to provide equal opportunity for all as required by: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 -prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended -prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, or national origin. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 -prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender. Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA) as amended -prohibits discrimination on the basis of age with respect to individuals who are at least 40. The Equal Pay Act of 1963 as amended -prohibits gender discrimination in payment of wages to women and men performing substantially equal work in the same establishment. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 -prohibits discrimination against the disabled. Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) -prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in employment, public service, public accommodations and telecommunications. The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) -requires covered employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to “eligible” employees for certain family and medical reasons. The Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 -prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions. The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) –provides job protections and reemployment rights to military reservists and National Guard members called to active duty. The Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act (FEPA) –prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy), disability, marital status, and retaliation. Nebraska Age Discrimination in Employment Act (Age Act) –prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of age for those individuals who are over 40 years of age. The Equal Pay Act of Nebraska –prohibits discriminatory wage practices based on sex. The Nebraska Equal Opportunity in Education Act –prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex (including pregnancy) by any educational institution. Veterans Preference Law (NEB.REV.STAT§§ 48-225 to 48-231) -stipulates categorical preferences for employment for military veterans and for the spouses of disabled veterans. Additional School Board policies prohibit harassment and/or discrimination against students, employees, or patrons on the basis of sex, race, color, ethnic or national origin, religion, marital status, disability, age, pregnancy, and any other legally prohibited basis. Retaliation for engaging in a protected activity is also prohibited. Any person who believes she or he has been discriminated against, denied a benefit, or excluded from participation in any district education program or activity may file a complaint using the district's complaint procedures. Inquiries regarding compliance with any of the laws referred to in this policy may be directed to the superintendent or to the district's Title IX and/or Section 504/ADA Coordinator.



The Fort Dispatch

Volume 33 No 2

Fort Calhoun Community Schools

October 2023

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Adjust Your Lens

In today's world it is sometimes hard to find the positive. You can, just adjust your lens. I know over the last several months there has been than a handful of struggles for me. Those struggles can consume your time and your mind, it is important not to stay in that situation. How do you do that? Adjust your lens, we become so involved that we lose track of everything else going on around us. Step back and look at the big picture, negativity happens but your willingness to get stuck in it is a choice. Positive items are happening all around us, we just need to adjust our lens and refocus. Notice the weather, notice the fall, the leaves changing colors and decide to control the things we can control. Do something fun, even if it is just for an hour; break that negative train of thought. Call an old friend or better yet go visit an old friend. Be grateful for what you have instead of angry about what you don't. Be curious before being critical. Reach out and help someone, volunteer, giving your time to benefit others is an extremely generous and positive way to adjust your lens.

So, the choice is yours, times can be challenging, accept the challenge and adjust your lens to help you make it through in a safe and positive manner.

Jerry Green
Superintendent
Fort Calhoun Community Schools



The mission of the Fort Calhoun Schools is to:

Foster learning in an inspiring, caring and safe environment; provide
Opportunities for all students to be successful; instill the attributes of
Respect and responsibility among staff and students alike; and present students with the
Tools to succeed in life.

OPTION ENROLLMENT 2024-25

The Option Enrollment application period for the 2024-25 school year is open September 1, 2023 through March 15, 2024. Forms are available on our website or at the school offices. The School Board sets class size and program parameters in October. According to State law, and all applicants must be notified one way or the other by April 1st. **Applicants are taken on a first-come, first-serve basis.**

Mr. Nick Wemhoff
Secondary Principal

Parent-Teacher Conferences are quickly approaching. Parents/Guardians, please make plans to come to school and meet with teachers. If you are unable to attend in person, please reach out to your child's teachers via email. We want to make sure that the lines of communication are open and used often. Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for October 17-18. Teachers will be available in their classrooms from 2:00 - 8:00 pm on both nights. We will have a dinner break for staff from 5:00 - 5:45. Please plan accordingly.

We have seen an increase in student lunch account balances that are below zero. As a reminder, please check PowerSchool to see your child's lunch account balance. If you have any questions, please contact the HS office. You may deposit money either using E-Funds (electronic deposit) or have your child bring a check to school to place in their account. When depositing funds, please plan for the future and deposit more than the negative balance. This will ensure they have funds available for future breakfasts or lunches.

Fort Calhoun SkillsUSA will be sponsoring the Veteran's Day Program on November 11th at Fort Calhoun HS at 10:00 am. All community members are welcome to attend. The program will last approximately 1 hour. We would like to invite any Military Service Men and Women to our luncheon following the program. This is open to those who are currently serving or have served in the past. All Military Service Men and Women are also allowed to bring 1 guest with them to attend the meal. Please RSVP by calling the HS office at 402-468-5591. This will help us plan for how many people to expect. On behalf of the FORT — THANK YOU for your service!



"As we express gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."
John F. Kennedy



Adriana Hernandez won the Senior Rabbit Showmanship competition at the Nebraska State Fair in August. She also won the District Senior Rabbit Showmanship competition at the Clay County Fair in Iowa.

Bria Bench, Molly Dierks, Abbey Lienemann, Natalie Reichert, Grayson Bouwman, AJ Duros, Preston Johnson, and Jay Stoa have all been selected as the Homecoming candidates for 2023.

Ali Dill has been selected to participate in the 2023-24 Youth Leadership Omaha program at Creighton University along with other sophomores throughout the Omaha Metro area.

The high school **Art Club** hosted a successful face painting fundraiser during the football game on 9/22. **Mr. High Horse** thanks all the Art Club students, former students, staff and the community for making it a fun and memorable event. The club is looking forward to future face painting opportunities.

The **Fort Calhoun Softball Team** earned the #1 Seed in the C-1 Subdistrict tourney.



PFE News

Rain or shine, we walked! Thanks to all of our Pioneers and their families/friends for making our Walk-a-Thon fundraiser a success! Thank you to all who donated to support

Fort Calhoun Community Schools.

Our membership drive is still open, we appreciate your support of Pioneers For Education (PFE).

The next PFE Meeting will be Monday, October 30th at 7:30pm in the High School Library. We will be discussing and planning for our spring events. We continue to have an open Vice President position, if interested please reach out to pioneersforeducation@gmail.com. Follow Pioneers For Education on Facebook for fun updates, pictures of events, and other exciting news. It's going to be a great school year!

Save the Date:

10/2 – Summer Bridge Celebration
10/27 – Mornings with Mom
10/30 – PFE Meeting

Your Officer Team,
Chris Roberts - President; Open Position - Vice President;
Shannon Pokorski - Treasurer; Jami Biodrowski - Secretary; Amy Evanich - Communication Coordinator



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| 10/6 | Homecoming
Homecoming Parade
Skills USA Hog Roast
Parent's Night |
| 10/7 | Links Marching Band Festival
Homecoming Dance |
| 10/9 | School Board Meeting |
| 10/13 | End of First Quarter |
| 10/13-19 | Elementary Book Fair |
| 10/17-18 | Parent Teacher Conferences
Early Dismissal |
| 10/19 | Early Dismissal |
| 10/20 | NO SCHOOL - Fall Break |
| 10/21 | State Marching Band Festival |
| 10/31 | HAPPY HALLOWEEN |

SCHOOL DISTRICT CENSUS

We are growing and to be prepared, we continually maintain a census of all our residents to determine future needs.

Please help us with our child count by reporting your children up to 18 years old. If you have not already notified us or there has been a change in your household, call the District office at 402-468-5591 with your information. If you have new neighbors pass this on to them. We would like to hear from you whether you have school-age children or not so we may keep everyone up-to-date with District information.

FORT CALHOUN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
DISTRICT CENSUS RECORD

Resident: Last	First	Mailing Address:	Zip
Spouse		Residence Address: (if different)	
Occupation	County	Phone #	
Other Adults Living at Same Address			
Date	For Office Use Only:		Census ID #
NAME OF CHILD/SOC. SEC. #	ID #	SEX	DATE OF BIRTH
(Birth to 21 Years)		M F	MM/DD/YY
			PLACE OF BIRTH
			CITY/STATE

October is ...



Red Ribbon Week 10/23-31





Jamie Schleifer
Assistant Principal/AD

I wanted to take time to recognize my staff. I have had the privilege of being part of the Fort Calhoun Elementary community for almost twelve years, and I can't emphasize enough why our school has some of the most incredible staff members. The heart and soul of this school are undoubtedly its dedicated educators, and I've witnessed firsthand why they are exceptional.

Firstly, the staff are more than just teachers; they are mentors and role models. Their passion for teaching is palpable, and it's infectious. They don't merely teach subjects; they ignite a love for learning in each student. Their enthusiasm makes the classroom a place of excitement and discovery.

What truly sets us apart is their commitment to individualized learning. They understand that every child is unique, and they go to great lengths to tailor their teaching methods to suit each student's needs. Whether it's providing extra help or challenging advanced learners, they ensure that every child receives the support they require.

Moreover, the sense of community and care they cultivate is exceptional. Beyond academics, they create an environment where students feel safe, respected, and encouraged. Their mentorship extends beyond the classroom, and they genuinely invest in each student's personal growth and well-being.

In conclusion, I wanted to celebrate our great staff because they are more than just educators – they are passionate, dedicated, and caring individuals who go above and beyond to ensure that each student thrives academically and personally. Their unwavering commitment to nurturing young minds and fostering a sense of community makes our school truly exceptional. Be thankful, stay positive, and encourage a growth mindset. Take care! Go PIONEERS!

Respectfully,
Drew R. Wagner

Parents/Guardians/Visitors in the Building

Parents/guardians/visitors may volunteer in the classroom setting with proper approval and proper documents with background checks filled out appropriately. We are no longer allowing parents/guardians/visitors to eat in the lunchroom. This task of monitoring foot traffic during the school day is purposeful to limit unknown visits.



National School Lunch Week is October 11-15th. Fort Calhoun Schools serve nutritious meals to students

during the school year. If you have any questions, about the meal program, please contact the District Office at 402-468-5591.

Fall activities are off to a great start and we are excited to watch our students compete in the sports/activities they love! This is an exciting time of the year as post-season play is right around the corner! Check the school website for updated post-season information.

We are excited to announce that we the Homecoming Firework Show will return again this year and will take place after the Homecoming football game on **Friday October 6th!** All community members are welcome to enjoy the free show!

As we move through fall activities, I want to give everyone a reminder that winter sports are right around the corner! Athletes not involved in a fall sport who plan to go out for a winter sport should look for pre-season workout information from their respective coaches in the upcoming months. Additionally, there will be a Winter Sports Parents Meeting (for those who didn't attend the fall meeting) on **Sunday, Nov. 12th at 6pm at the High School.**

Winter Physical Form Information: I want to remind parents of students who plan to participate in athletics this winter in grades 7-12 need to submit their physical to the main HS office. The sports physical must take place after May 1, 2023 to qualify them for the 2023-24 school year. The specific line we are looking for is "the athlete is cleared without restrictions to participate in athletics."

Winter Sport Start Dates:

- High School Basketball and Wrestling- Monday, November 13th
- Junior High Boys Basketball- Monday, October 16th
- Junior High Girls Basketball- Monday, January 5th
- Junior High Wrestling- Monday, January 8th

Pioneer Fans: A live FREE streaming is offered through HUDL. Fans can download the HUDL fan app or go to hudl.fan.com and search "Fort Calhoun" to find all the events available for livestream.

Fort Calhoun Season Passes are still available at Jr./Sr. High games and in the High School office:

- Family- \$150
- Single Adult- \$70
- Student (K-12)- \$50

Good luck to all of coaches and students as they finish up their seasons this fall! I would like to thank the community of Fort Calhoun for supporting Pioneer activities!

Mr. Schleifer

IT'S A _____
PIONEER
_____THING